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Southern District of West Virginia**

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**FORMER POLICE OFFICER SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING FIREARMS & AMMUNITION**

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – A former St. Albans, West Virginia police officer was sentenced today by United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers for illegally possessing firearms and ammunition. Ronald M. Chapman, 44, of Milton, West Virginia, was sentenced to five months in prison to be followed by 24 months on supervised release (seven months of which must be served on home confinement with electronic monitoring). Chapman was given credit for the time he has already served in custody.

Chapman previously pleaded guilty in July, admitting he possessed numerous firearms and ammunition while subject to a Final Domestic Violence Protective Order. Chapman admitted that on December 28, 2009, he knowingly possessed six firearms and approximately 941 rounds of ammunition at his ex-wife's residence in Milton while subject to a Final Domestic Violence Protective Order entered in Kanawha County Family Court. Chapman further admitted that he was provided notice that possessing a firearm or ammunition while the protective order was in effect may be a criminal offense under federal law.

Federal law prohibits the possession of firearms and ammunition by those subject to a final protective order; those convicted of crimes of domestic violence; unlawful users of controlled substances; those addicted to a controlled substances; fugitives from justice; those who have renounced US citizenship; felons; those who have been adjudicated mentally defective or who have been committed to a mental institution; those dishonorably discharged from the armed services; and illegal aliens.

“October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and people subject to a final domestic violence protective order should be aware that if they are caught with a gun in the Southern District of West Virginia, they will be prosecuted,” stated United States Attorney Booth Goodwin.

The Milton Police Department, St. Albans Police Department, Cabell County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Lisa G. Johnston handled the prosecution.

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